

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner has objected to the Cross Reference To Related Applications submitted with the preliminary amendment. Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and for obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants have cancelled claims 1-20 and added new claims 21-35. Accordingly, with this reply claims 21-35 are the only claims pending in this application.

Applicant addresses the above issues with the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and Double Patenting

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and for obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants address all of the Examiner's rejections by canceling claims 1-20.

Objection to Cross Reference To Related Applications

The Examiner has objected to the multiple references to U.S.S.N. 08/345,217 present in the Cross Reference To Related Applications submitted with the preliminary amendment. Applicants address the Examiner's objection by amendment of the Cross Reference To Related Applications to remove the confusing additional references to U.S.S.N. 08/345,217 and to correct inconsistencies with the filing receipt.

New Claims

New claim 21, from which claims 22-33 depend, is directed to methods of enhancing *in vivo* survival of parenchymal cells using a scaffold comprising a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of polyvinyl alcohol, teflon, and nylon. New claim 34, from

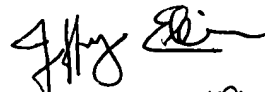
which claim 35 depends, is directed to methods of producing a functional vascularized organ tissue using a scaffold comprising a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of polyvinyl alcohol, teflon, and nylon. New claims 21-35 find support in the specification at page 8, lines 1-10.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Enclosed is a petition to extend the period for reply for three months, to and including June 19, 2003. If there are any additional charges, or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Date: June 19, 2003

Very truly yours,


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for Kristina Bieker-Brady

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